

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-2

WASHINGTON STAR  
1 MARCH 1980

STAT

## 5 Soviet-bloc Diplomats Expelled by U.S. in Year

By Allan Frank  
Washington Star Staff Writer

The United States has quietly expelled five Soviet-bloc diplomats for espionage activities during the last year, an FBI official said yesterday.

William O. Cregar, assistant FBI director for intelligence, declined to give any details about the expulsions, but said they had not been previously disclosed. He said his estimate of five expelled diplomats was "a ballpark figure. The spies, who usually had diplomatic immunity that barred prosecution, were declared "persona non grata" and forced to leave the country.

In an interview marking his retirement after 29 years with the FBI, Cregar said the expulsions were not made public because "every time something like that happens, the enemy will manufacture a situation in their country and retaliate."

He said the FBI believes the expelled diplomats were prevented from harming U.S. national security.

In recent years, Cregar said the FBI has learned that cooperation with other U.S. intelligence agencies and "the international intelligence community" has enabled the bureau to improve greatly its effectiveness in counterintelligence work.

He said the FBI "has made progress (in tracking Russian activities here). We know more about their methods of operation. We have a better appreciation of who their intelligence officers are, of the equipment and paraphernalia they use against us and we have a better understanding of their long-range plans."

Cregar also said the Russians have been steadily increasing their intelligence activities here and that various foreign governments are continually attempting to build contacts on Capitol Hill.

A State Department spokesman, Sue Pittman, declined to comment on Cregar's remarks. Judith I. Hodgson, an aide to the Senate Intelligence Committee, said only that the committee had been "kept informed of developments."

John H. Davitt, the chief of the Justice Department's internal security division who also retired yesterday after 29 years there, said there have been more prosecutions

of Soviet spies during the last three years than at any other time.

Davitt noted that in a case in New Jersey last year, two Soviets were found guilty and a third who had diplomatic immunity was publicly expelled.

Cregar also said that he believes the recent escape from a California prison of Christopher John Boyce, who had been convicted of selling satellite secrets to the Soviets, was not engineered by any intelligence agency. He said, "My personal opinion is that it was the act of a single person — Christopher Boyce. He had everything to gain and nothing to lose. I would think he would eventually cross the border to Mexico."

Noting that the FBI can't possibly monitor all the intelligence agents from 150 countries, Cregar said the bureau only targeted agents from countries whose interests were considered to be "inimical to the national security."

He said neither he nor the FBI had any problems with Savak, the Iranian secret police during the shah's reign. Savak was reputed to have had wide-ranging operations in the United States. "We did not view Savak as a threat to the United States," Cregar said.

Cregar also said that the reported obsession of former CIA counterintelligence chief James J. Angleton to find a Soviet "mole" inside the CIA was totally justified, despite allegations that Angleton's activities may have undermined the CIA's effectiveness.

The FBI man said "I don't think you can ever carry an investigation of an allegation of penetration too far. You're talking about the lifeblood of our system."

He also said he "totally disagreed" with the assessment of the late William C. Sullivan, once the No. 3 FBI official who wrote in a book published posthumously last year that as late as 1971 there was an unidentified Soviet agent inside the FBI office in New York.

Cregar, 54, an enthusiastic jogger who played linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1947-48 before joining the FBI in Charlotte, N.C., said he is probably "more valuable to the government than ever" but that federal pension requirements made it most advantageous for him to retire this year.